

## Dedicated Hunter Program Changes for 2008

The Dedicated Hunter program has been growing steadily since it was launched in 1995. The 2007 enrollment brought the program to 9080 people, just 20 shy of the 10,000 participant cap. There has always been an expectation that things would change when the program reached the cap. In order to discuss possible changes to the program and possible issues created by reaching the enrollment cap, the Dedicated Hunter committee was convened in March, 2007. The committee consisted of several Dedicated Hunters, DWR volunteer program personnel, and representatives from big game non-profit organizations.

The committee wrestled with several issues:

Should the cap stay at 10,000 or be raised? If raised, how high?

Should enrollment continue to be first-come, first-served, or change to a drawing?

Should there be a preference system that guarantees some people the ability to join the Dedicated Hunter program?

After significant discussion, and talking with the Dedicated Hunters in their lives, committee members returned to the final meeting in near complete agreement. They had two major concerns. First, that Dedicated Hunter projects continue to be high-quality, meaningful conservation projects. And second, they were sensitive to the fact that increasing the cap would impact the Southern region more so than the other four regions. Therefore, the committee is proposing no changes to the Dedicated Hunter rule this year. (They reserve the right to monitor the program and make different recommendations in 2-3 years time.)

Dedicated Hunter committee proposal for 2008:

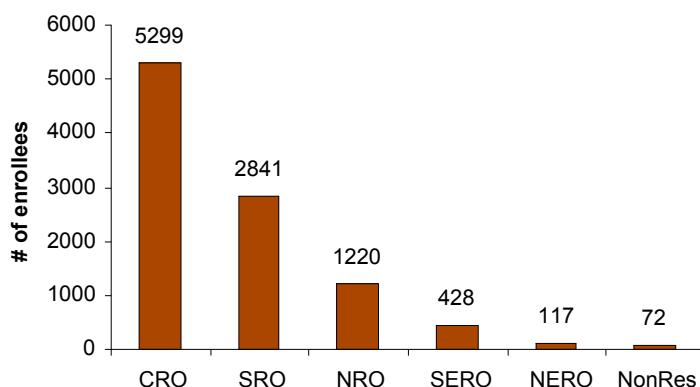
Keep cap at 10,000

Keep first-come, first-served system

Do not create any kind of preference system

To accommodate this, the Division is working to create an online-only enrollment system. This will allow us to keep an accurate count of enrollees. We expect the program to be oversubscribed by only several hundred to a thousand people in 2008-2010. An online, first-come, first served system should accommodate the demand for the Dedicated Hunter program for at least three years.

### Where Dedicated Hunters Live



### Where Dedicated Hunters Hunt

